IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 21, 23 to 25, 27, 51, 53 to 55, 57 and 64 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to a ~~an indicated~~ directory, each of the data ~~meta-data~~ files having both data and meta-data indicating characteristics of the data;

~~searching the meta-data of the data files read in said reading step for a common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files read in said reading step, and~~ extracting a [[the]] common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files from the multiple kinds of meta-data read in said reading step ~~data files~~;

generating directory meta-data for the directory by using the common meta-data item extracted in said extracting step; and

attaching the directory meta-data generated in said generating step to the directory ~~data as meta-data corresponding to the data files belonging to the directory~~.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

when in said searching step there is no common meta-data item, the directory meta-data for the directory is generated based on a meta-data item whose content is included in most of the ~~multiple~~ data files belonging to the directory ~~read in said reading~~ step.

24. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which includes meta-data items used in the directory meta-data ~~for the~~ directory generated in said first generating step;

wherein, in said attaching step, the directory meta-data generated in said first generating step is attached to directory data corresponding to the new directory.

25. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include meta-data items used in the directory meta-data generated in said first generating step.

26. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

each data file includes image data, audio data, or dynamic image data.

27. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

in said attaching step, the meta-data generated in said generating step is appended to the end of the directory data.

28. to 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A data processing device comprising:

reading means for reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to a ~~an indicated~~ directory, each of the ~~multiple~~ data files having both data and meta-data indicating characteristics the data;

~~searching means for searching the meta-data of the data files read by said reading means for a common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files read by said reading means;~~

extracting means for extracting a [[the]] common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files, from the multiple kinds of meta-data ~~data files read by said reading means~~;

generating means for generating directory meta-data for the directory by using a the common meta-data item extracted by said extracting means; and

attaching means for attaching the directory meta-data generated by said generating means to the directory ~~data as meta-data corresponding to the data files belonging to the directory~~.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein when said searching means finds no common meta-data item, said generating means generates the directory meta-data ~~for the directory~~ based on a meta-data item whose content is included in most of the ~~multiple~~ data files belonging to the directory ~~read by said reading means~~.

54. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

first recording means for generating a new directory and for recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which includes meta-data items used in the directory meta-data ~~for the directory~~ generated by said generating means;

wherein said attaching means attaches the meta-data generated by said generating means to directory data corresponding to the new directory.

55. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

second recording means for generating a new directory and for recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include meta-data items used in the directory meta-data ~~for the directory~~ generated by said generating means.

56. (Previously presented) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

each data file includes image data, audio data, or dynamic image data.

57. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

said attaching means appends the directory meta-data generated by said generating means to the end of the directory data.

58. to 63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising code for performing the steps of:

reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to an indicated directory, each of the ~~multiple~~ data files having both data and meta-data indicating characteristics of the data;

~~searching the meta-data of the data files read for a common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files;~~

extracting a [[the]] common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files, from the multiple kinds of meta-data ~~data files~~;

generating directory meta-data for the directory by using the common meta-data item extracted in said extracting step; and

attaching the meta-data generated in said generating step to the directory ~~data as meta-data corresponding to the data files belonging to the directory~~.